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Press Release

United States donates free birth certificates to 1,000 Bolivian citizens of El Alto

The U.S. Government, through its Agency for International Development (USAID) donated free of charge 1,000 birth certificates to Bolivian citizens of El Alto, who did not possess this crucial identity document.

The presentation of these documents took place within the framework of activities of USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives in El Alto, operating along with NGO Capacitación y Derechos Humanos. The program has already provided birth certificates to 1,700 previously undocumented Bolivian citizens. USAID's Director in Bolivia, Michael Yates, participated in the ceremony.

In total, 1,700 citizens of El Alto received birth certificates, while another 3,560 people had faulty birth certificates amended. Faulty birth certificates prevent citizens from obtaining Bolivian national identity cards.

This program's objective is to assist these citizens to obtain legal status. Without identity documents, these citizens cannot exercise their rights as citizens or access State health and education services. Thus, this program also helps reduce the risk of marginalization of this population within society.

The Office of Transition Initiatives and NGO Participación y Derechos Ciudadanos budgeted \$US38,000 dollars to benefit this group of 5,260 Bolivian citizens. Other institutions such as Cuerpo de Cristo Foundation, the Integrated Justice Centers, and the National Electoral Court also contributed to this project.

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